

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellants: Joanna Ng et al.

Group Art Unit: 2456

Application No.: 10/527,135

Examiner: Nguyen, Van Kim T.

Filed: March 8, 2005

Confirmation No.: 9468

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING A
COLLECTION OF PORTLETS IN A PORTAL SERVER

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APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(a)

This is an appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the decision of the Examiner dated May 11, 2010, which finally rejected claims 1-4, 19-31, and 34-36 in the above-identified application. The Office date of receipt of Appellant's Notice of Appeal was September 13, 2010. This Appeal Brief is hereby submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(a).

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is the assignee of the full interest in the invention, International Business Machines Corporation, of Armonk, New York.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

To the best of Appellants' knowledge, there are no appeals or interferences related to the present appeal that will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the instant appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 5-18, 32, and 33 are canceled.

No claims are withdrawn.

No claims are objected to.

Claims 1-4, 19-31, and 34-36 stand rejected as follows:

Claims 1-4, 19-31, and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hesmer et al. ("Portlet Development Guide, Working with the Portlet API," Edition 1.1, (April 2002), pp. 1-83, hereinafter Hesmer).

Claims 1-4, 19-31, and 34-36 are the subject of this appeal. A copy of claims 1-4, 19-31, and 34-36 is set forth in the Claims Appendix.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments were submitted subsequent to the Final Office Action mailed May 11, 2010. The proposed amendments were entered by the Examiner, as indicated in the Advisory Action mailed August 18, 2010.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

This section of this Appeal Brief is set forth to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(v) and is not intended to limit the scope of the claims in any way. Examples of implementations of the limitations of independent claims 1, 19, and 28 are described below.

The language of claim 1 relates to an apparatus with embodiments for displaying to a user a web portal for a web application. Abstract. The apparatus includes a portal server for operating a web portal to provide access to a web application. Page 24, lines 26-28; Fig. 2, portal server 201. The apparatus also includes a computer readable storage medium comprising computer program code recorded thereon to implement a portlet application for operating on the portal server, for managing a collection of associated portlets. Page 15, lines 35-38; Fig. 2, portlet applications 1 and 2, portlets 205, 206, 207. In one embodiment, the portlet application initiates portlets on requests of a user to access the web application. Page 24, lines 26-32. The portlet application also manages a portlet application session object for the portlets. Page 25, lines 6-16; Fig. 2, object 208. The portlet application session object includes a data store object shared by a plurality of the portlets in the portlet application. Page 17, lines 25-32. The portlet application includes a portlet application session object data store controlled by the portlet application session object for saving parameters from user requests for associating the portlets with the portlet application session object. Id.

The language of claim 19 relates to a method for use with multiple associated portlets in a web portal. Abstract. The method includes managing multiple associated portlets using a portlet application session object. Page 25, lines 6-16; Fig. 2, object 208. The portlet application session object includes a data store object shared by a plurality of the portlets in the portlet application. Page 17, lines 25-32. The method also includes implementing a portlet application data store according to computer program code recorded on a computer readable storage medium. Page 15, lines 35-38. The method also includes granting read/write access to the portlet application data store by the multiple associated portlets to enable the multiple associated portlets to exchange data among each other. Page 10, lines 21-28.

The language of claim 28 relates to an apparatus for displaying to a user a web portal for a web application. Abstract. The apparatus includes a portal server for operating the web portal to provide access to the web application by the user. Page 24, lines 26-28; Fig. 2, portal server 201. The apparatus also includes a computer readable storage medium comprising computer program code recorded thereon to implement a portlet application, for managing a collection of associated portlets, for operating on the

portal server. Page 15, lines 35-38; Fig. 2, portlet applications 1 and 2, portlets 205, 206, 207. The apparatus also includes a portlet application session object for the user for the associated portlets. Page 25, lines 6-16; Fig. 2, object 208. The portlet application session object includes a data store object shared by a plurality of the portlets in the portlet application. Page 17, lines 25-32. The apparatus also includes a portlet application session object data store controlled by the portlet application session object. Id. The apparatus also includes a portlet application communication client linked to the portlet application session object data store for communicating between the associated portlets and the web application to convey user requests received from the associated portlets to the web application. Page 24, line 34, through page 25, line 4; Fig. 2, client 209. The portlet application communication client includes a request buffer for storing requests from the associated portlets to enable the portlet application communication client to generate requests relative to the web application. Page 7, lines 11-14.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

- A. Whether claims 1, 2, 4, 20-24, 26-31, and 34-36 are patentable over Hesmer under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).
- B. Whether claim 19 is patentable over Hesmer under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).
- C. Whether claims 3 and 25 are patentable over Hesmer under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

VII. ARGUMENT

For the purposes of this appeal, claims 1, 2, 4, 20-24, 26-31, and 34-36 are argued together as a group for purposes of the question of patentability over Hesmer under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claim 19 is argued separately for purposes of the question of patentability over Hesmer under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 3 and 25 are argued separately for purposes of the question of patentability over Hesmer under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

- A. Claims 1, 2, 4, 20-24, 26-31, and 34-36 are patentable over Hesmer because Hesmer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claims.

Appellants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Hesmer because Hesmer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim. Claim 1 recites:

An apparatus comprising:

- a portal server for operating a web portal to provide access to a web application;

- a computer readable storage medium comprising computer program code recorded thereon to implement a portlet application for operating on said portal server, for managing a collection of associated portlets;

- said portlet application configured to:

- initiate portlets on requests of a user to access said web application;

- manage a portlet application session object for said portlets, wherein the portlet application session object comprises a data store object shared by a plurality of the portlets in the portlet application; and

- said portlet application comprising:

- a portlet application session object data store controlled by said portlet application session object for saving parameters from user requests for associating said portlets with said portlet application session object.

(Emphasis added.)

In contrast to the language in the claim, Hesmer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim because Hesmer does not disclose a portlet application session object which includes a data store object shared by a plurality of portlets in a portlet application. Prior to discussing this lack of teaching by Hesmer, it may be useful to review the progression of the Examiner's reasoning.

In support of the rejection, with reference to the recited portlet application session object, the Examiner initially referred to § 3.2.3 Portlet Session (page 20) of Hesmer as purportedly disclosing the indicated limitation. Office Action, 10/16/09, page 5. Subsequently, the Examiner also referred to § 7.2.2 Storing data (pages 62-63) of Hesmer as purportedly disclosing the indicated limitation. Office Action, 5/11/10, page 3. In response to these assertions, Appellants explained that the description in Hesmer of sharing the PortletData object among different user portlet instances in different portlet

applications is insufficient to disclose sharing the PortletData object among a plurality of portlets in a single portlet application.

Now in the Advisory Action, the Examiner appears to rely on different disclosure from Hesmer and reasoning to sustain the rejection. Specifically, the Examiner states:

Hesmer teaches “The PortletData holds portlet instance specific data for the virtual instance of the portlet. For each occurrence on a page there is a portlet instance. This means, when a portlet is on a group page, PortletData holds group specific data, and when a portlet is on a user page, PortletData holds user specific data” (see page 23). Inherently, the group specific data are sharing among a plurality of portlets which are member of the group.
Advisory Action, 8/18/10, page 2 (emphasis added).

As a preliminary matter, it should be noted that the reference to page 23 appears to be incorrect. There is no reference to virtual instances, user or group pages, or user or group specific data on page 23 of Hesmer. In fact, a key word search of the entire documents indicates that the term “virtual instances” is not used anywhere within the searchable text of Hesmer. Perhaps the Examiner intended to refer to page 9 of Hesmer for reference to the concrete portlet instances and/or the user portlet instances. Similarly, perhaps the Examiner intended to refer to page 10 or page 28 of Hesmer for reference to the user/group pages and user/group data.

Despite the Examiner’s assertions in the Advisory Action, the description in Hesmer of group pages and group-specific data is insufficient to disclose the indicated limitations of the claim. Furthermore, the Examiner’s reliance on allegedly inherent disclosure of Hesmer is improper.

1. The description in Hesmer of group pages and group-specific data does not disclose a portlet application session object which includes a data store object shared by a plurality of portlets in a portlet application.

Although the Examiner asserts that Hesmer purportedly teaches the limitations of the claim, the reasoning in the Office Action relies on an inaccurate characterization of the disclosure of Hesmer. In order to accurately understand the disclosure of Hesmer, it is important to understand some basic terminology used within the disclosure of Hesmer.

This discussion of terminology used in Hesmer does not necessarily characterize terminology used in the present application, but nevertheless provides a basis for understanding the scope of disclosure of Hesmer.

Hesmer describes a “portal” as a web site that provides aggregation of content from diverse sources. Hesmer, page 6, section 2, first paragraph. As used in Hesmer, “portlets” are pluggable modules that are designed to run inside a portlet container of a portal server. Hesmer, page 6, section 2, third paragraph. In other words, portlets provide the individual content resources within the portal. Hesmer also explains that related portlets may be packaged within a portlet application. Hesmer, page 11, section 2.4.1.

Figure 2 of Hesmer (reproduced below) illustrates an example of how a portlet may be instantiated. Specifically, the portlet is used to create a concrete portlet, which is a portlet parameterized by a single PortletSettings object (step 1). Hesmer, page 10, first two paragraphs. Then, a concrete portlet instance is created (step 2) when a user or administrator places the portlet on a page. Hesmer, page 10, third paragraph. The concrete portlet instance is parameterized by a single PortletData object. Id. When a user accesses a page that contains a portlet, a user portlet instance is created (step 3). Hesmer, page 10, fourth and fifth paragraphs. The user portlet instance is parameterized by a single PortletSession object. Id.

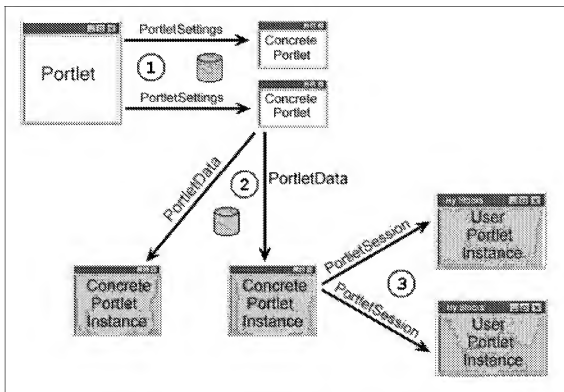


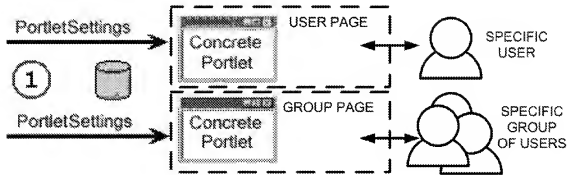
Figure 2: Manifestations of a portlet in the portal server

Thus, Hesmer describes three types of objects in conjunction with the illustration of Figure 2. The Examiner's reasoning specifically refers to the PortletData. However, the PortletData of Hesmer does not disclose a portlet application session object which includes a data store object shared by a plurality of portlets in a portlet application.

As explained an Appellants' previous response to the Examiner, Hesmer describes sharing the PortletData object. However, the PortletData object is not shared by a plurality of portlets in a portlet application. Rather, the PortletData object is only shared by different user portlet instances derived from the same concrete portlet instance. See Fig. 2 on page 9. Although there may be some type of sharing with the PortletData object, there is no description of the separate user portlet instances being implemented within the same portlet application. Moreover, there would appear to be no reason to implement duplicate user portlet instances in the same portlet application. Therefore, the description of sharing the PortletData object among different user portlet instances in

different portlet applications is insufficient to disclose sharing the PortletData object among a plurality of portlets in a single portlet application.

In response to this reasoning, the Examiner turns to the description in Hesmer of group pages and group-specific data. With reference to a concrete portlet (shown in Fig. 2 of Hesmer), Hesmer explains that an administrator can put a concrete portlet on either a group page or a user page. Hesmer, page 10, paragraph 4 (following the circle '3' designation). If the concrete portlet is placed on the group page, then the PortletData object contains data stored for the group of users. Alternately, if the concrete portlet is placed on the user page, then the PortletData object contains data for that user. This relationship is illustrated in the following figure, which is partially derived from Fig. 2 (reproduced above).



While Hesmer describes some type of relationship between a group page and a specific group of users, this relationship does not indicate that group-specific data within the PortletData is somehow shared among multiple portlets in a portlet application. Rather, Hesmer merely describes a one-to-one relationship between group-specific data and a concrete portlet. The description on page 28 of Hesmer further clarifies the following:

There is one concrete portlet instance for each occurrence of a portlet on a page. A page can be owned by either a single user (personal page) or by a single group of users (group page). PortletData contains user-specific data on a personal page and group-specific data on a group page. Advisory Action, 8/18/10, page 2 (emphasis added).

Thus, the reference to a “group page” in Hesmer does not refer to how many portlets might be instantiated within a portlet application, but rather explicitly refers to the ownership of the page. Moreover, Hesmer does not describe any correlation between the ownership of the page and the number of different portlets that might be used in a portlet application. Furthermore, the use of group-specific data within the PortletData described in Hesmer does not provide any description of using the indicated group-specific data among multiple portlets. Therefore, the references in Hesmer to a group page and group-specific data merely indicate ownership of the page, but do not provide any description of implementing group-specific data for multiple portlets within a portlet application.

For the reasons presented above, Hesmer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim because Hesmer does not disclose a portlet application session object which includes a data store object shared by a plurality of portlets in a portlet application, as recited in the claim. In particular, regardless of whether the ownership of a page is by a single user or by a single group of users, the PortletData object is not shared by a plurality of portlets in a portlet application. Accordingly, Appellants respectfully assert claim 1 is patentable over Hesmer because Hesmer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim.

2. The assertion of inherent disclosure is improper.

The Examiner appears to recognize that Hesmer does not explicitly disclose the limitations of the claim. Hence, the Examiner asserts that it is allegedly inherent in Hesmer that the group-specific data is shared among a plurality of portlets which are members of a group.

However, this assertion is improper because the Examiner’s reasoning relies on a mischaracterization of the “groups” referenced in Hesmer. Additionally, this assertion is insufficient to support the indicated rejection because the assertion of inherency is not properly supported by rationale or evidence, as required by the MPEP.

The Examiner’s assertion mischaracterizes the actual disclosure of Hesmer because the groups referred to in Hesmer are groups of users. As explained above, Hesmer specifically refers to a group page that is owned by a specific group of users.

There appears to be no basis for the Examiner's contrary assertion that Hesmer inherently refers to groups of portlets. The term "group" is simply not used in this manner within the description of Hesmer.

Moreover, the MPEP states that the Examiner must provide rationale or evidence in order to show inherency. MPEP 2112(IV). More specifically, in relying on a theory of inherency, the Examiner must provide a basis in fact and/or technical reasoning to reasonably support the assertion that an allegedly inherent characteristic necessarily flows from the teachings of the cited reference. Id. Moreover, the MPEP states that the possible occurrence of a result or characteristic is not sufficient to establish inherency of the asserted result or characteristic. Id.

Here, the Examiner merely restates (very liberally) some of the disclosure of Hesmer related to group pages and group-specific data. However, in light of the lack of disclosure by Hesmer of any type of groups of portlets, the Examiner simply concludes that sharing group-specific data among groups of portlets is allegedly inherent in the disclosure of Hesmer. In fact, the conclusion of inherency asserted by the Examiner is not supported by any rationale or evidence. Additionally, the Examiner does not describe any facts or technical reasoning that would support the assertion of inherency, because the Examiner's assertions are based on mischaracterizations of the actual disclosure of Hesmer. Moreover, the Examiner does not provide any extrinsic evidence to remedy this lack of rationale. In other words, the Examiner asserts the unsupported conclusion of inherency, without providing any rationale or evidence to show how the Examiner might have arrived at the asserted conclusion of inherency.

Appellants respectfully assert independent claims 19 and 28 are also patentable over Hesmer at least for similar reasons to those stated above in regard to the rejection of independent claim 1. In particular, the rejections of these independent claims merely rely on the same reasoning or similar that the Examiner provided for the rejection of claim 1. Here, although the language of these claims differs from the language of claim 1, and the scope of each claim should be interpreted independently of claim 1, Appellants respectfully assert that the remarks provided above in regard to the rejection of claim 1 also apply to the rejections of these independent claims. Accordingly, Appellants

respectfully assert independent claims 19 and 28 are patentable over Hesmer because Hesmer does not disclose the indicated limitations.

Given that claims 2-4, 20-31, and 34-36 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims 19 and 28, which are patentable over the cited reference, Appellants respectfully submit that these dependent claims are also patentable over the cited reference based on allowable base claims. Additionally, each of these dependent claims may be allowable for further reasons. Accordingly, Appellants request that the rejections of claims 1-4, 19-31, and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

B. Claim 19 is patentable over Hesmer because Hesmer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim.

In addition to the reasons presented above in favor of patentability of claim 1, Appellants maintain that claim 19 is further patentable because Hesmer does not disclose additional limitations recited in the claim. Claim 19 recites:

A method for use with multiple associated portlets in a web portal, the method comprising:

managing said multiple associated portlets using a portlet application session object, wherein the portlet application session object comprises a data store object shared by a plurality of the portlets in the portlet application;

implementing a portlet application data store according to computer program code recorded on a computer readable storage medium; and

granting read/write access to said portlet application data store by said multiple associated portlets to enable said multiple associated portlets to exchange data among each other.

(Emphasis added.)

In contrast, Hesmer does not disclose portlets which exchange data among each other. For reference, the Examiner does not respond to Appellant's previous remarks presented in the after-final response. Although the reasoning in the Office Action refers to the discussion of the PortletSession object in section 3.2.3 of Hesmer, the PortletSession object of Hesmer does not enable exchanging data from one portlet to

another. Rather, as discussed in previous responses, the PortletSession object of Hesmer merely parameterizes individual user portlet instances that are separate from one another.

Therefore, Hesmer fails to disclose all of the limitations of claim 19 because Hesmer does not disclose enabling portlets to exchange data among each other, as recited in the claim. Accordingly, Appellants respectfully assert claim 19 is further patentable over Hesmer because Hesmer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim.

C. Claims 3 and 25 are patentable over Hesmer because Hesmer does not disclose all of the limitations of the claims.

Dependent claims 3 and 25 depend from and incorporate all of the limitations of the corresponding independent claims 1 and 19. Appellants respectfully assert these dependent claims are allowable based on allowable base claims. Additionally, each of these dependent claims may be allowable for further reasons, as discussed below.

In regard to claims 3 and 25, Hesmer fails to disclose all of the limitations of the claims. For reference, claim 3 recites:

The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said portlet application is further configured to assign a common key to each portlet associated with said portlet application session object.
(Emphasis added.)

Claim 25 also recites:

The method of claim 24, further comprising:
creating and managing a key for the user for the portlet application session object; and
granting the key to each associated portlet for controlling access to the portlet application session object.
(Emphasis added.)

In contrast to the language of these claims, the referenced portion of Hesmer fails to disclose assigning a common key to each portlet. For reference, the Examiner does not respond to Appellant's previous remarks for these claims presented in the after-final response. As explained previously, the referenced portion of Hesmer merely describes maintaining a persistent backend connection. Although Hesmer describes using an

identifier for the connection, the identifier is unique for each connection. However, the description of unique IDs is insufficient to disclose using a common key for each portlet associated with a portlet application session object. Therefore, Hesmer does not disclose all of the limitations of the indicated claims because Hesmer merely describes using a unique ID for each connection.

VIII. CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, claims 1-4, 19-31, and 34-36 are patentable over the cited reference. Thus, the rejections of claims 1-4, 19-31, and 34-36 should be withdrawn. Appellants respectfully request that the Board reverse the rejections of claims 1-4, 19-31, and 34-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any over payment to Deposit Account **09-0461** pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.25. Additionally, please charge any fees to Deposit Account **09-0461** under 37 C.F.R. 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21.

Respectfully submitted,

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IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:
 - a portal server for operating a web portal to provide access to a web application;
 - a computer readable storage medium comprising computer program code recorded thereon to implement a portlet application for operating on said portal server, for managing a collection of associated portlets;
 - said portlet application configured to:
 - initiate portlets on requests of a user to access said web application;
 - manage a portlet application session object for said portlets, wherein the portlet application session object comprises a data store object shared by a plurality of the portlets in the portlet application; and
 - said portlet application comprising:
 - a portlet application session object data store controlled by said portlet application session object for saving parameters from user requests for associating said portlets with said portlet application session object.
2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said portlet application further comprises a portlet application communication client for communicating between said portlet application session object and said web application to convey user requests received from said associated portlets to said web application.
3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said portlet application is further configured to assign a common key to each portlet associated with said portlet application session object.
4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a user session information table configured to connect to multiple web applications with said portlet application session object.
- 5-18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) A method for use with multiple associated portlets in a web portal, the method comprising:
- managing said multiple associated portlets using a portlet application session object, wherein the portlet application session object comprises a data store object shared by a plurality of the portlets in the portlet application;
 - implementing a portlet application data store according to computer program code recorded on a computer readable storage medium; and
 - granting read/write access to said portlet application data store by said multiple associated portlets to enable said multiple associated portlets to exchange data among each other.
20. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein managing said multiple associated portlets is implemented by a portlet application.
21. (previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising managing the portlet application session object, wherein the portlet application session object is configured to manage the portlet application data store.
22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein granting read/write access to the portlet application data store is implemented by the portlet application session object.
23. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising operating a portlet server on a portal server for hosting the multiple associated portlets in the web portal accessible to a user.
24. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising creating the portlet application session object for the user.
25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising:

creating and managing a key for the user for the portlet application session object;
and

granting the key to each associated portlet for controlling access to the portlet application session object.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising operating a portlet application on a portal server for hosting the multiple associated portlets in a web portal accessible by the user.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein one portlet application is assigned to each user, and one key is assigned respectively for each user to respective portlet application session objects for each portlet application.

28. (previously presented) An apparatus for displaying to a user a web portal for a web application, the apparatus comprising:

a portal server for operating the web portal to provide access to the web application by the user;

a computer readable storage medium comprising computer program code recorded thereon to implement a portlet application, for managing a collection of associated portlets, for operating on the portal server;

a portlet application session object for the user for the associated portlets, wherein the portlet application session object comprises a data store object shared by a plurality of the portlets in the portlet application;

a portlet application session object data store controlled by the portlet application session object; and

a portlet application communication client linked to the portlet application session object data store for communicating between the associated portlets and the web application to convey user requests received from the associated portlets to the web application, wherein the portlet application communication client comprises:

a request buffer for storing requests from the associated portlets to enable the portlet application communication client to generate requests relative to the web application.

29. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the portlet application communication client is further configured to generate the requests synchronized to the web application, to send information including the requests over a network to the web application, and to receive information including responses to the requests from the web application.

30. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the portlet application communication client is further configured to generate the requests serialized to the web application, to send information including the requests over a network to the web application, and to receive information including responses to the requests from the web application.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the portlet application communication client is further configured to generate the requests serialized to the web application, to send information including the requests over a network to the web application server, and to receive information including responses to the requests from the web application server.

32-33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the portlet application session object provides an infrastructure for a plurality of the portlets in the portlet application to have independent user sessions, to share the same portlet application session, and to communicate with the web application via a single web application session.

35. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the portlet application session object provides an infrastructure for a plurality of the portlets in the portlet

application to have independent user sessions, to share the same portlet application session, and to communicate with the web application via a single web application session.

36. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the portlet application session object provides an infrastructure for a plurality of the portlets in the portlet application to have independent user sessions, to share the same portlet application session, and to communicate with the web application via a single web application session.

X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no evidence submitted with this Appeal Brief.

XI. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

To the best of Appellants' knowledge, there are no appeals or interferences related to the present appeal that will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the instant appeal.